

Testimony re: SB 188 & 189

I don't know what else can be said that hasn't been reiterated time and time again at prior committee meetings but once again I am here begging for reform of the sex offender registry. My son has bent over backwards to do everything that has been required of him. He was recently married in Sept. of 2011 but continues to live with us because the registry has made it impossible for him to get a job that would make it affordable for him to move out on their own. Topping that is the fact that when he moves everyone that has requested it, will receive an e-mail that a SO has moved into the neighborhood. Once again he will face the remarks and finger pointing. No one will know that in Feb. of 2010 he went to court and was granted an expungement of his record. With this being said I will go straight to the issues I have with the AWA.

- 1) Putting names and addresses of employers on the public registry is likely to cause people to lose the jobs they were able to retain. The cost to the state would by far surpass the 1million we stand to lose by not complying when you stop to factor in jobless benefits and welfare for those that have children.
- 2) Putting original charges on the registry if convicted of a lesser charge is unjust because in most cases the charges are trumped up and instill fear in the defendants forcing them to accept plea agreements. If the Judge and prosecutor agree to drop charges how can they be listed as there was no trial and someone could have been found innocent of the charges had they taken the risk of going to court. My son was facing a min. of 15 years had he gone to court. Since his victim had represented herself as 16 and was in fact 13 he had no choice but to take a 1yr. min. – max. sentence because that is not a defense. The parole office sentencing investigator actually recommended 6 mos.
- 3) While I applaud you for allowing the juveniles the opportunity to come off there are still those that will fall in the cracks as how will consent be proven between 2 8 or 9 year olds. Mark Lundsford's son was able to plea down from a registerible offense. All I am asking is for my son to be able to come off as he has no record.

4) Individuals assigned to HYTA after 10/01/2004, without a record, are not required to register yet those who have been successful getting their record set – aside ARE required to continue registering. Arenac County is one county that does not use HYTA. Casey Steckleberg, from the prosecutor's office talked to our prosecutor and informed me that my son was indeed a candidate. We spent the money went back to court and my son was turned down for HYTA. When all expungements have to go through the Attorney General's office, the prosecutor's office and in front of a judge, with a chance for the victim to make a statement, before they are granted it is obvious that they are not a threat to society. Clean up our registry so the public has a clearer view of who to watch. Florida has allowed set a sides to come off and they have been found compliant so I know Michigan can do the same.

I will end now knowing those that follow and those that have already testified will cover the remaining issues concerning the AWA. There is not enough time for us to cover the entire scope of pain and suffering that the families of registered sex offenders face. With our registry being 45,000+ and growing. I fail to see why we would continue to monitor offenders who have clearly proven to be good citizens and want nothing more than to put their one act of poor judgment behind them, This money could be better spent on educating the public on how to protect themselves and their children from becoming a victim of a csc. crime. We need parents to step up , not new laws as they are useless in preventing new csc crimes. Let's educate our juveniles to the laws not jail them.

Thank-You

Cindy